THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, October 6, 1806.

Account of the Discovery and Conquest of the Eastern Part of Terra Firma, or the Caracas.

By M. Depons, a Refugee from St. Domingo.

NONE of the conquests made by the discoverers of the new world was disputed with greater obstinacy than that of Caracas. The Indians who inhabited the country at the arrival of the Spaniards were fierce and savage, and the cruelty of their invaders drove them to despair. They were not united, as in Mexico and Peru, under a single head, but divided into small tribes, who fought separately for their independence. The nature of their country was favourable for defence, being mountainous and difficult of access, and intersected with innumerable rivers, which, for a great part of the year, overflow their banks. The progress of the invaders was therefore slow, and their steps were marked with devastation and blood. But the natives were at length exterminated or reduced to subjection. The prisoners taken in war were hurried to the shore, and sold to slave merchants, who hovered over the coast like birds of prey, in expectation of these victims, to replace the sufferers from bigotry and avarice at St. Domingo. In no part of the Spanish settlements have the missionaries contributed so little to the reduction of the country as in Caracas.

The captain-generalship of Caracas consists of the provinces of Venezuela, Maracaibo, Varinas, Guiana, Cumana, and the isle of Margarita. It extends along the coast from long. 75. to long. 61. W. from Paris, and from north to south it reaches from lat. 12. N. to the equator. It is bounded by the sea, by Dutch, French, and Portuguese Guiana, and by the vice-royalty of New Granada. It may be necessary to remind our readers,

that the Spanish settlements in America are divided into four vice-royalties, Mexico, Peru, Buenos Ayres, and New Granada; and into five captain-generalships, Porto Rico, Cuba, Guatemala, Caracas, and Chili. The captain-general is an officer of inferior dignity to the viceroy, but is quite independent of his authority.

The temperature of this country is moderated by a chain of mountains which traverses it from west to east, extending from the lake of Maracaibo to the isle of Trinidad. The highest point of this ridge is near the city of Caracas, having 1278 toises of height; but, in general, it is much less elevated. To the south of these mountains there is an extensive plain, extremely hot, watered by the Orinoco and its tributary streams. The mountains of Caracas are covered with wood fit for ship-building and for every other purpose; and they contain some gold mines, though of little value, which were at one time worked, but have been long since abandoned. There is a copper mine in the province of Venezuela, from which a small quantity of excellent copper is annually extracted. It is used by the planters in their sugar-works in preference to iron, on account of its cheapness, being sold at 15 dollars per cwt. A small quantity is likewise exported at Porto Cabello.

The pearl fishery near the isle of Margarita, which first attracted the Spaniards to this coast, has been long since abandoned; and it is said that pearls are no longer to be found there.

Bay salt is gathered in great abundance, and of excellent quality, in many places along the coast of Venezuela. Near Araya there is a mine of rock-salt, which might be worked to great advantage, were it not for the royal monopoly, which prevents any one from trading in salt, except the king.

The seasons are divided into wet and dry in Caracas, as in other tropical countries. The rainy season begins in May, and ends in December. While it lasts, there is rain for three hours a day, at an average, throughout the country. The rain falls in torrents, fills the ravines, and makes the rivers overflow their banks. Earthquakes are much less common in Caracas than in Peru. When there are long intervals between the thunder-storms, it is observed that earthquakes are more frequent.

The lake of Maracaibo is 150 leagues in circumference, and communicates with the sea. Its water is fresh, but at times brackish. It abounds in fish; and is navigable for ships of considerable burden. At its north east corner there is a very copious spring of mineral pitch; and from this a constant exhalation of inflammable vapours, which are phosphorescent during the night, and serve as a beacon to the Indian and Spaniards who navigate the lake. The place is called, on this account, the 'Beacon of Maracaibo.' The banks of the lake

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are sterile and unwholesome, so that the Indians prefer living in villages, built on shallows in the midst of the water. When the Spaniards first arrived on this coast, the number of these villages was so great that they gave to the province the name of Venezuela, or Little Venice. Four of them are still preserved, and their inhabitants earn their subsistence by catching fish in the lake, and by hunting for wild ducks in the manner described by Ulloe. They take care that a number of empty calabashes are continually floating on the lake, that the ducks may be accustomed to them, and without fear at seeing them approach. The hunter then goes into the lake with a calabash over his head, having holes in it for seeing and breathing. Nothing is seen above the water except the calabash, which appears to be floating on the lake. Thus accoutred, he moves with the greatest stillness towards the ducks, and catching one by the leg, he pulls it suddenly under the water, before it has time to alarm the rest; and, in this way, he goes on 'till he has caught as many as he wants.

The rivers which take their rise on the north side of the mountains, are short and rapid in their course, and run directly into the sea. They might be usefully employed for irrigation; and they are well adapted for conveying lumber to the coast. Some of them are navigable to a considerable distance from the sea. The rivers which rise on the south side of the mountains flow through a flat country, which they inundate in the rainy season, and are at last received into the Orinoco.

Porto Cabello is the best harbour upon this coast or in all America. It is large, safe, and commodious, sheltered from every wind; calm, however much the sea is agitated; deep; and has good anchoring ground. Guayra, the harbour of Caracas, is the most frequented port on this coast, though it is only a miserable roadstead. In the gulph of Paria there is good anchorage, from eight to thirty fathoms deep; and on the coast of Paria, there are several harbours and roadsteads, by which there is a ready communication with Trinidad. There are many other harbours on the coast of Caracas, but none of any great note.

MANNERS *of the* LADIES *of* LIMA.

[From "The Present State of Peru."]

THE account of Lima, the capital of Peru, and of its various establishments, occupies a considerable portion of the volume; but contains little that is calculated to satisfy curiosity, or to excite interest. The ladies of Lima are not less fashionably, nor less extravagantly disposed, it seems, than those

of London, as the following complaints of a man who had an extravagant wife, addressed to the academy of Lima, may serve to demonstrate.

" To you, gentlemen, as true lovers of the country, I have recourse for counsel, and for relief from the anxieties, sufferings, and perplexities, which oppress and drive me to despair.

" I am a reputable and well-disposed man, very much at your service, gentlemen, and wedded to a lady of great judgment and talents, according to vulgar report;—well born, and of a gentle disposition, possessing many graces and accomplishments, and endued with a rare wit. A certain friend of mine, a great observer in these matters, has noticed in her twenty-five different modes of laughing, and more than forty of looking. As a proof of her vivacity, he says that he has never seen her either gape or stretch herself, notwithstanding she has passed four nights in succession without sleep. In short, she is a precious pearl, and the theme of all the assemblies.

" We will now take a view of the reverse of the medallion, which I shall describe with all possible fidelity. The same nymph, so gracious, and gifted with so many choice and exalted qualities, is the cause of my principal torments. I have a settled annual income of little more than a thousand piastres, to which certain perquisites, usually denominated by evil-disposed persons *manos puercas* (illicit profits), being added, my revenue may be estimated at two thousand. I sincerely wish that I had millions to lay at the feet of my spouse, but I can assure you that I have not more than I have mentioned. Now to proceed to a recital of my troubles. She never misses a play; and at the bull-feasts she must have her gallery provided. In the winter season come the excursions, and the extra excursions, to the mountains; the promenades, and the extra-promenades, to the banks of the Amancaes river; and, to crown the whole, she must set out to see the tower of Atocongo, otherwise the house would be thrown into disorder. In the summer, the evenings are passed at the promenade of La Piedra Lisa. She regularly bathes with a female companion, and after having quitted the bath, takes a store of the refreshments and fruits that are hawked about. The regular meals within doors are not on that account a jot diminished.

" From time to time, we keep the festivals of Lurin, that of San Pedro de Chorrillo, the one which is celebrated at Bellavista, those of San Christoval, Santiago del Cercado, and the other peregrinations with which you are well acquainted, without reckoning, once a week at least, a day fixed by one of her companions for an excursion to a garden or plantation in the vicinity. Not an ecclesiastic takes the religious habit, nor a nun, nor a monk even, the vows, but she is the first to hasten

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to the ceremony. At the festivals of the Blessed Virgin, and the masses of the new year, her devotion is incredible: she scarcely sleeps on those days, that she may not lose any of these holy assemblies. But what deprives me of all patience is this, that in the midst of these rambles, and not satisfied with them, she never absents herself from a public execution. She knows to a minute when a capital punishment is to be inflicted on one; when another is to be whipped; and on these mornings she rises early, makes a hasty breakfast, and we set out for the square. I have not yet done. When one of the lottery clerks passes by the house, during the few hours she is within doors, she calls him in, and after a long chit-chat about the chances past, present, and to come, stakes on four numbers at the least, which, with as many smaller adventures, amount to eight piastres per month:—'Pay them, my soul,' she repeats, addressing herself to me; 'I have not any loose cash about me!' One day, to my great misfortune, she had a hit; but such was the concourse of female visitants and their attendants, to partake of the treat, and so many the presents distributed on the occasion, that I may say proverbially, 'the tart cost me a loaf,' or, in other words, I was obliged to make considerable disbursements, the hundred and twenty-five piastres gained by our fortunate adventure not sufficing to defray the expences.—These things tormented me not a little; but who is capable of resisting a lady?

"As the fruit of our marriage, we have three little boys, whose rearing is confided to the nurse, and to a certain female, the bosom friend of my wife, who is the oracle of the house. We will leave this subject of the children, however, 'till another opportunity, as the discussion would lead us too far, and proceed to our more immediate object.

"I have already mentioned my receipts and revenues: we shall now see what are the expenditures. The rent of the house amounts to four hundred and fifty piastres: and still the lady is not satisfied, because the parlour, she observes, is too small for country dances. The ordinary expenses of house-keeping, in eating and shoe-leather, are not less than a thousand piastres. The extraordinaries of calash and mule, promenades and visits, exceed six hundred. Here then we find somewhat more than the two thousand piastres which I am able to scrape together with all my diligence. But how are we to be clad? And how are the physician and surgeon, who make at least a hundred visits in the year, some for the lying-in, others to the mother, and others to the baby, to be paid? According to a computation I have made, on an average for five years, four faldellins are required for the summer, and at least two for the winter, in addition to which last, a thousand supernumerary dresses are needed, because the faldellin which served for one occasion is

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not to be brought out in a hurry for another. How is all this to be discharged? And, finally, where are the means to pay the goldsmith who renews the fashions, the tailor who invents, changes, and re-changes them, and, more especially, the merchant who delivers to my wife, on credit, the satins, plushes, velvets, &c. I am truly so perplexed, that I know not how to turn myself. The commodes, the canopy, the ornamented paper, and the dial which stands on the table, are still unpaid for. I owe more than the one half of the amount of the calash, for which I bargained two years ago, and which is already in a ruinous condition. I am indebted for the whole of the fashionable hammock in which we now sleep, my wife having given the other to her bosom friend. I owe I know not how much to the tailor, shoe-maker, washerman, cigarre-maker, poulterer, peruke-maker, to my barber, and to how many others I cannot say. All I know is, that a few days ago I saw an account at the house of the shoe-maker, amounting to no less than one hundred and eighty-five piastres, for shoes for my blessed spouse. I appeal to your conscience and good understanding, gentlemen! what would you do under such embarrassments? Afford me your advice, &c."

MEMOIRS *of* LORD MACARTNEY.

THE Earl of Macartney was born in the year 1737, was educated as a fellow commoner in Trinity College, Dublin, and at that university he proceeded master of arts, in the year 1759. When he had finished his education, a young king was upon the throne, at whose court it was natural that a young man of ancient family, and with a mind conscious of high talents, should aspire to be favourably introduced. He had that manly elegance of personal form and manners which is ever useful to procure, at a court, the notice without which genius might remain unknown, and by consequence be incapable to make its way to trust and honour. At court, therefore, it was soon perceived that he had abilities which it would be unwise and unjust to deny to the public service.

The importance of the relations commercial and political, between Great Britain and the empire of Russia, the necessity there was to counteract the influence of France at the Russian court, and the late commencement of a female reign, of which the character and policy were to be particularly studied, made the embassy from this country to Russia to be, just at that time, one of those diplomatic situations in which penetration, vigilance, discretion, and agreeable address were the most indispensible requisites. The fit qualifications were thought by some of the most discerning judges of character, such as Lord

Holland, to be united in Mr. Macartney. On the 22d of August, 1764, he was, therefore, appointed envoy-extraordinary to the court of Russia. The chief ostensible diplomatic business of this mission was to negociate a commercial treaty for the benefit of the British merchants trading to Russia. Of the proper interests of our Russia trade he was well informed: his address surmounted every difficulty of access to the empress and her ministers; he knew to seize in business, the *molissima tempora fandi;* and he had coolness and patience to conquer every obstacle which might be opposed to his views by the rough passions or stickling artifices of others. Within no long time after opening this negociation, he procured the Russian court to agree to a treaty perfectly satisfactory to the wishes of the British merchants at St. Peterburgh, and suitable to the instructions which he had received from the government at home. A grateful address from the merchants of the British factory at St. Petersburgh; the honour of the knighthood of the Polish order of the white eagle, conferred by a monarch who was himself at once a man of fashion, taste, and pleasure, and a man of political talents; and the elevation to the character of ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary from the British court, in which he finally concluded the treaty of commerce; were some of the testimonies of approbation and respect which Sir George Macartney merited by his conduct in this diplomatic mission to the north.

Thus successful and distinguished, he returned to the British court. Other rewards there awaited him, which the hand of love was to bestow; and, on the 1st of February, 1768, he became the husband of Lady Jane Stuart, second daughter of John earl of Bute. By his marriage he had contracted a relationship to the late Lord Lonsdale, then Sir James Lowther; and, by that gentleman's interest with the electors, he was, in April, 1768, chosen one of the representatives of the borough of Cockermouth in the parliament of Great Britain. His estates were chiefly in Ireland, and, in July, 1768, he was chosen to represent the borough of Armagh in the Irish parliament. On the 1st of January, 1769, Sir George Macartney was nominated principal secretary to the present Marquis Townshend, in the high office which he then filled, of lord lieutenant of Ireland. In the discharge of the functions attached to that office, Sir George Macartney's conduct was so agreeable to his sovereign, that he was nominated, in the month of June, 1772, to be one of the knights companions of the order of the Bath, and was installed at Westminster, by proxy, on the 15th day of that month. In October, 1774, he was elected to represent the Scottish boroughs of Ayr, Irwin, Rothsay, Campbleton, and Inverary, in the ensuing parliament of Great Britain. Three of these boroughs were situated near the estates of the

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earl of Bute, in the west of Scotland; who could hence have little difficulty to recommend a son-in-law of such distinguished merit to the choice of the electors. The conduct of Sir George Macartney in parliament was satisfactory alike to his constituents and to his sovereign.

But the services of his talents and early experience were soon wanted by the government in a distant employment of vice-regal authority. In December, 1775, he was appointed captain-general and governor in chief of Grenada, the Grenadine islands, and Tobago. At the time when Sir G. Macartney was appointed to this employment, the rising contest with the American colonists, the jealousies and ambitious views of France and Spain, the situation of those islands so immediately on the very scene where so many great transactions were about to take place, presented difficulties more numerous and more arduous than almost any former governor could have had to encounter. Yet, for more than three years, he administered this government in a manner equally useful to the interests of his sovereign, and acceptable to the people of the islands.

In 1779 Grenada was invaded by a French armament much more powerful than any force that the governor had ready for its defence. But he formed a skilful plan of operation against the invaders; he was well seconded by the troops, and by the inhabitants; he made a resistance of which the judgment and gallantry astonished the brave officers against whom he had to contend: nor was Grenada surrendered to the French 'till the defenders were reduced to a situation in which nothing could have justified the waste of lives in a further continuance of hostilities. The inhabitants, at a time when, having passed under the power of the conquerors, they could be in no necessity to disguise any sentiments of dislike, if such they had entertained against their late governor, honoured him with an address in which they acknowledged, in the language of the warmest gratitude, the wisdom and justice with which he had presided over them, the vigilance and ability with which he had constantly endeavoured to provide for their security and welfare, the skill with which he had regulated the defence of the isle, and the coolness and intrepidity with which he met, in person, the dangers of the several attacks. He returned to Europe a prisoner; but was soon released. He had been raised, in 1776, to the dignity of Lord Macartney of the kingdom of Ireland, baron of Lissanoure, in the county of Antrim.

As the loss of Grenada, however unfortunate to his country, had not arisen from misconduct in him, but was rather signalized by the most illustrious display of all his great qualities, he met with no ungracious reception from his sovereign and his country. In the month of September, 1780, he was chosen to

represent the borough of Beeralstone in the British parliament. In the December immediately following, he was appointed governor and resident of Fort St. George at Madras, in the East-Indies, and he went without delay to discharge the functions of his appointment.

Lord Macartney arrived in India at a period when there was peculiar difficulty in the administration of the government of that district of country, over which he was sent to preside. The company's inferior servants had learned to usurp a power of slighting the commands of their masters: and Tippoo Saib, then in the vigour of his strength as sovereign of Mysore, was harassing the subjects and allies of the company with a dangerous war. While General Stuart was preparing to send the governor from the seat of his authority to confinement in a dungeon, Lord Macartney, anticipating his purpose, ordered his friend and secretary, Mr. Staunton, to put the general under arrest. With a small party of sepoys, and with singular intrepidity and discretion, Mr. Staunton executed that bold order. From this time, the governor's authority prevailed without opposition. Commissioners, of whom Mr. Staunton was one, were sent to treat for peace with the sovereign of Mysore. A peace seasonably useful to the company's affairs, and not betraying its honour, was, under Lord Macartney's auspices, happily negotiated. None of its benefits were more grateful to his country or to his own heart, than that it restored to liberty a number of officers who had, in the course of the war in Bangalore, been made prisoners by the armies of Hyder Alli and Tippoo Saib, and who had been long detained in a captivity of which the circumstances were peculiarly wretched.

In the space of four years, he had so fully evinced his services to be, in the highest degree, useful to the company's affairs, that, in February, 1785, he was appointed to the high and almost imperial office of governor-general of Bengal. This appointment, however, he chose to decline. In January, 1786, he arrived in England, and the accounts of his services were so satisfactory to the East-India company, and to all who had in this country any interest in East-India affairs, or any controul over them, that he was again requested to return to administer the chief authority in India. He however again declined to accept of this office. Of the additions to his fortune from the emoluments and advantages of his official situation at Madras, he gave an account upon oath, by which it appeared that even Cicero returned not from Cicilia with purer hands. He had acquired nothing but what fairly arose out of his salary, and from allowances authorized by the court of directors. An example of such abstinence in a place of great trust and high command, was not defrauded of its due praise. It was consigned to remembrance in the records of the transactions of

the court of directors, and a pension of 1500l. a year was bestowed to reward equally the important services which this illustrious nobleman had rendered to the company, and his great pecuniary moderation. A pension of 500l. a year was likewise granted, to reward the services of his friend and secretary, the late Sir George Staunton.

During the six years immediately following after his return from Madras, he remained at home, in the discharge of his duties as a legislator, enjoying the society of his friends, and setting an example not less amiable in private life, than that which he exhibited in public employments had been prudent, active, and magnanimous.

In 1788, he took his seat for the first time in the Irish house of peers, His regard for the prosperity of Ireland induced him to undertake the duties of one of the trustees of the linen-manufacture for the province of Ulster. He accepted, also, the honourable appointment of *custos rotulorum* for the county of Antrim; and he was, likewise, promoted in Ireland to the command of a regiment of militia-dragoons.

In the beginning of the year 1792, events occurred which renewed the solicitude of the East-India company and the British government, to send an ambassador to the court of China. The choice was easily fixed; for, the design of the embassy was no sooner proposed, than the voice of general opinion marked out Lord Macartney, as almost the only man to whom this charge might be entrusted with any strong probability of its success. On the 3d of May, 1792, therefore, he was nominated ambassador from the king of Great Britain to the Emperor of China. He was admitted, that same day, to the honours and trust of a privy counsellor. On the 28th of the same month, he was farther graced by his sovereign by a patent advancing him to the dignity of Viscount Dervock, in the county of Antrim, in Ireland. He proceeded, without delay, on his embassy. Sir George Staunton, his friend and former secretary, was again in this embassy his secretary and companion. A suitable train of servants and followers were appointed to attend him. A ship of war, under the command of Sir Erasmus Gower, was, with certain smaller vessels, assigned for his voyage. Many rich presents were sent by the ambassador from the British to the Chinese sovereign. He arrived in safety in the Indian seas. When his approach was notified at the Chinese court, the emperor and his minister agreed, though not without hesitation, to receive the ambassadors and presents of a monarch so great and so remote.

To approach Pekin, the northern capital of the Chinese empire, his lordship was obliged happily to direct his voyage round the south-east coast of China, by a tract hitherto almost unknown to European navigation. The advantage even alone

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of exploring that track might have been enough to compensate for all the difficulties and expence of the embassy. He entered the Chinese territories. Mandarines of the highest rank were appointed to conduct him to the imperial court. His presents were graciously accepted. He was entertained, with his secretary and all his train, in a manner the most hospitable and sumptuous which the state of the Chinese court would easily permit. With great address Lord Macartney contrived at once to comply, in his obeisance with the wishes of the Chinese sovereign, and to assert the dignity of his royal master, by procuring that a Chinese nobleman of the same rank with himself should, in the same representative character, perform before a portrait of the British monarch those ceremonies of respect, which Lord Macartney himself paid to the living presence of the emperor of China. His own conduct and that of his attendants were at the same time regulated, so as not to give offence to the prejudices of the Chinese. Permission for the permanent residence of a British ambassador at the court of China could not, indeed, as yet be obtained. A commercial treaty would have constituted a new connexion with a foreign power of which Chinese prejudices could not yet favourably conceive the nature. But, in every other respect, the best purposes of the embassy were happily accomplished. The ambassador, with his train, returned over land. On the 19th of December, 1793, he made his entrance into Canton. After being there splendidly entertained by the viceroy of that government, he proceeded to Macao. From that port he sailed on his return to Europe, on the 17th of March, 1794. On the 5th of September, after an absence of nearly two years, he arrived at Portsmouth in safety.

While he was on his return, his sovereign had graciously testified his approbation of his services, by exalting him to the dignity of earl of Macartney. Their importance has been since more and more proved by new facilities opening to the British trade in China, and new respect to the rights and persons of Britons wherever they have access to the Chinese territories. The earl of Macartney was on the 8th of June, 1796, farther advanced to the dignity of a British peer, by the title of Baron Macartney, of Parkhurst, in Sussex. He has since crowned his public services by the administration of the viceroyalty at the Cape of Good Hope. In this high station, as in the other offices which he has filled, the earl of Macartney has displayed qualities which do infinite honour to his head as a statesman, and to his feelings as a man. His death took place March 31, 1806, and his lordship dying without issue, the title is extinct; but his estates descend to his niece and heir, Mrs. Hume, and her family, the widow and children of the late Rev. Dean Hume.

His remains were interred at Chiswick. A hearse and four, two mourning coaches, and the private coach of the marquis of Hertford, constituted the whole funeral procession. The privacy observed upon the occasion was so great, that not even his lordship's old friend and companion in India, Sir William Duncan, was allowed an opportunity to pay a last tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased.

His lordship's will is dated the 30th of April, 1801. By it he devises his estates, which are considerable, to his niece, Elizabeth Hume, for life; remainder to her eldest son, George Hume, in tail male; remainder in the same way to Gustavus, Robert, John, and Arthur Hume, the second, third, fourth, and fifth sons of the said Elizabeth; remainder in same way to Elizabeth, Georgiana, Alicia, and Ann Hume, successively, the four daughters of the said Elizabeth; remainder to Major-General George Benson, in the same way; with remainders, over in same way to Edward Winder, esq. John Winder, esq. and the Rev. Dr. George Macartney, of the county of Antrim, in Ireland; remainder to his lordship's right heirs, subject to an annuity for life to the Countess Macartney, of 2400l. a year. His lordship has also bequeathed to the countess, his house in Curzon-street, with the family plate, library, furniture, &c. and his house at Chiswick, for the same term, with remainder to his niece, Mrs. Elizabeth Hume. His lordship has enjoined, that the said George Hume, and other descendants of the said Elizabeth, who shall succeed to the said estates, shall assume the sirname, and bear the arms of Macartney only.

Narrative of a Shipwreck, and its disastrous Consequences.

Extract of a Letter from an Officer at Quebec, to his Friend in the Neighbourhood of Bath.

Quebec, July 6, 1806.

YESTERDAY five soldiers of the 100th regiment, who embarked on board a transport, which was supposed to have been lost, from the length of time she had been missing, arrived in a brig from Poole, that touched at Newfoundland, and brought the above men from that island. They give a more melancholy account of a shipwreck and circumstances that followed it, than I ever heard in either real or fictitious story; from one of them I collect the following particulars. He says that about four o'clock in the morning of the 23d of October last, their vessel, the Æneas transport, struck on a rock with such force, that they saw she must soon become a wreck. For the

the few first minutes all the women and children clung to their husbands and fathers; but in a short time a wave came with such violence, as swept, he supposes, 250 of their people from the deck, out of 347, which was the number on board before. The rock soon forced its way through all the decks; and 35 of the survivors were, before eight o'clock, driven on a small island, about a quarter of a mile from where the vessel struck—at that time, she was gone entirely to pieces. He cannot positively say how they got on shore, but he supposes they were floated on part of the wreck. He remembers to have seen one of the boys endeavouring to save Major Bertram, who, having his arm broken by some timber, was on the point of sinking; he held him up as long as his strength permitted; but to save his own life, was at length obliged to let go his hold, and the major perished. The 35 who landed on the island, consisted of seven sailors and part of the 100th regiment; two of which were officers, Lieutenant Dawson and Ensign Faulkner. They had the mortification to find the wind change instantly as they landed, and drive every thing out to sea, so that not an implement of any kind was saved from the wreck. Mr. Faulkner was correct in his idea of the situation: he knew that the main land which they saw about a mile distant was Newfoundland, and that they were about 300 miles from St. John's.

After passing one night on the little island, they formed a raft, and 30 of them arrived safely on the main land—four had previously died, one of whom was the poor fellow, who had tried to save the major, and another was missing, who had crawled from his comrades that he might die in quietness, having had both his legs broken, but he was found about eight days after in a shocking state, with his feet frozen off; but he still miraculously survives, and is one of the five who arrived here. The greater part directed their course to where the sun rose, leaving behind them the above man and two others, who were unable to walk, from their bruises. Lieutenant Dawson was not able to keep up with the party, after the first day, and two of the soldiers stayed back to attend him: one of whom is the person who gave me these particulars.

After toiling on for 14 days, without eating any thing but berries, poor Dawson was unable to stand without support, and on their reaching the banks of a river, he (the informant) attempted to carry him over on his back; but having waded in as high as his neck, he was obliged to return, and lay him down on the bank, where he intreated the faithful fellows to make the best of their way, and leave him to his fate—at the same time squeezing them affectionately by the hands, and intreating them to inform his father of his melancholy end. Here the honest Hibernian (the 100th regiment was raised entirely in that kingdom) burst into a flood of tears before he could proceed.—

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"We stayed with him," he resumed, "until we knew not whether he was alive or dead." He described Mr. Dawson not to be above 17 years of age, upwards of six feet high, and very thin, all circumstances unfavourable for a person to undergo fatigue and abstinence.

After leaving poor Dawson, they travelled, or rather wandered, in a weak, feeble state for 12 days more; making in the whole 26 days; subsisting upon what nature presented to them in a cold barren land; but after the first four or five days they never felt hunger, and, in fact, their misfortunes were so great as (to use his own expression) to kill hunger and deprive them of a sense of feeling; and the snow for the last two days was so deep as to prevent their getting the accustomed berries.

These two wretches were at last found by a man belonging to a hunting party who, not expecting to meet any human being in that desolate region, and taking them at a distance for deer, had concealed himself behind a fallen tree, with his gun pointed at one of them, when his dog jumping towards them began to bark, and convinced him of his error. When they related their shipwreck and sufferings to the huntsman, the tears stole down his cheeks, and taking his *mankasins* from his feet, he gave them to the poor fellows, and invited them to his hunting cabin, which he said was only one mile off, but the real distance was at least twelve, to which by degrees he enticed them to proceed. When they approached the hut, four or five men came out with long bloody knives in their hands, and my informant says that he turned to his comrade, and said, "After all that we have escaped, are we brought here to be butchered and eat up?" But we soon found our mistake; the men had been cutting up some deer; the fruit of their chace, and our appearance soon drew the pity of these bloody-handed men, and when they produced a bottle of rum, we were convinced they were real Christians! It appears that they received every possible comfort from these hunters, who from the description they had received, set out in search of the others; they succeeded in finding the man who remained the first day on the island, and the other two who were unable to leave the shore. The two who accompanied Mr. Dawson had not made any great progress in the twenty-six days they were travelling; the place they were found at was not at any considerable distance from the spot whence they set off; so that in the woody labyrinth they must have nearly trod over the same ground again.

I asked my informant if they had given any directions to the hunters, where they might probably meet with the remains of poor Dawson, or of Faulkner and his party. He said they had, but it was almost folly to have followed any directions they could have given, for they knew not where they had been.

Of the thirty-five who survived the wreck, only these five have been heard of, excepting two sailors of Faulkner's party, who were picked up by a man on another hunting excursion, about ninety miles distant, apparently lifeless; but they were taken to an adjacent settlement, where they recovered. They are almost certain Mr. Faulkner and the rest of his companions must have perished in the woods.

They all describe Faulkner to have been strong, active and enterprizing; and could any thing possibly been effected for their preservation, he would have accomplished it. The other officers, of the 100th, expected much aid from these unfortunate young men. Each was proud of exerting himself: whilst the transports were lying about three miles from Portsmouth, they both swam to the ship. Mr. Faulkner climbed up the side very little fatigued, but Mr. Dawson was nearly exhausted.

When the surviving five arrived in the barrack-square at Quebec, how affecting was the scene! Men and women flocking round them with an eagerness mingled with despair, anxiously inquiring for some friend or brother that was on board the unfortunate Æneas. Their answer was—"If you do not see him here, be sure he is dead; for of 347 souls, we five Irish lads and two sailors are the whole that remain alive." The tears and exclamations that followed are too mournful to describe—although I could go on with minuter particulars of these disastrous occurrences until I had swoln this letter to a folio-volume, which, if either of the poor fellows live to reach home, will probably be the case.

GERARD's HALL INN, LONDON.

TO the east of Knight-Rider-street, on the south side of Basing-lane, stand the relics of an ancient mansion, once inhabited by Sir John Gisors, mayor of London, and constable of the tower in 1311; now converted to an inn.

This mansion, of the fee of William Fitz Alan, was held by the priory of St. John of Jerusalem, at no great distance after its foundation, to which it had been given by William Cotell. In 1189 it was granted by the prior and convent to Stephen le Blund. The exact time when it became tenanted by the Gisor family does not appear. In the turbulent time of Edward II. Sir John Gisors, we are told, was charged with several harsh and unjust proceedings; and being summoned to appear before the king's justices, to answer to the accusation, he and other principal citizens fled, and put themselves under the protection of the rebellious barons. In the lofty roofed hall, says Stow, in his Survaie, p. 665, stood a large fir pole, near forty

feet

feet high, which was feigned to have been the staff of Gerardus, a mighty giant; which proved to be no more than a Maypole, which, according to ancient custom, used to be decked and placed annually before the door. From this fable the house long bore the name of Gerard's Hall, but it was properly changed to that of Gisors. (See the Chartularies of the Monastery of St. John; and Pennant's London, p. 409.)

In the 9th of Edward II. 1316, it was still in the possession of the Gisors. James, then tenant, is represented as the successor of Anketun Gisors, by the tenure of ten shillings a year to the prior as superior lord. Mr. Pennant says it remained in the family 'till 1386, when it was alienated by Thomas Gisors. Within a short time afterwards the house was divided into several parts, and before Stow's time had become a common hosterie or inn. The vault below the present inn, engraved by Smith, in the Illustrations of Pennant, is the only remnant of the ancient house.

A Curious Bill, copied from an original Record in the Borough of Thetford.

THIS curious bill was entered in the record when John le Forrester was mayor, in the tenth year of Edward III. Anno 1336. It exhibits an authentic account of the value of many articles at that time; being a bill inserted in the town book of the expences attending the sending two light horsemen from Thetford to the army which was to march against the Scots that year.

	£.	s.	d.
To two men chosen to go into the army against Scotland	1	0	0
For cloth, and to the taylor for making it into two gowns	0	6	11
For two pair of gloves, and a stick or staff	0	0	2
For two horses	1	15	0½
For shoeing these horses	0	0	4
For two pair of boots for the light horsemen	0	2	8
Paid to a lad for going with the mayor to Lenn* to take care of the horses	0	0	3
To a boy for carrying a letter to Lenn	0	0	3
Expences for the horses for four days before they departed	0	1	0
	£.3	6	7½

* The distance between Thetford and Lenn is 33 miles.

NIGHTINGALE.

THIS bird spends its winter in Lower Egypt. Sonnini saw several in different parts of the Delta, where they prefer the closest covert, and places near the water. Here they do not exert that melodious voice, nor those brilliant modulations, which make our European groves resound. The only sound they utter here is that kind of hoarse note, that rattling in the throat, which in Europe succeeds their usual strains. They arrive in Egypt in the autumn, and depart in spring. They are, however, more freely dispersed through Syria, and some other districts of Asia, than Egypt. Sonnini, however, observes that they are sufficiently common in the latter country.

CONTENTMENT.

THIS blessing, without which all others are incomplete, is, if we are at the pains of exerting our reason, one of the easiest attainments in life. We give ourselves much unnecessary trouble in our inquiries, and ramble far abroad to find that which lies concealed at home. Happiness, or content (for the terms are synonimous), depends much less on the acquisition of what we have not, than on the enjoyment of what we actually have. Unconscious of or regardless of what lies fully in our hands, we grasp at objects difficult to attain; and which, if we do attain, we soon let go, for the endless pursuit of others.

Hence it happens, that ever running after new means, we are constantly neglecting to use those we have already mastered, in order to accomplish those ends for which they were procured. This proceeds from the excessive vehemence with which men are actuated in the chase of felicity, and from the ignorant apprehension, that we cannot secure it by too many methods; whereas the dexterous management of a very few will be found entirely sufficient. An argument of this may be produced from those conditions among mankind, where content is universally supposed mostly to dwell: they are generally such as absolutely exclude all idea of those numerous luxuriances and refinements, which are by so many deemed the surest ways and means to live happy.

A QUESTION, *by J. Rowden, Junior, of Heytesbury, Wilts.*

SUPPOSE the minute hand of a watch perform the 60th part of a revolution in the time that a pendulum of 67 inches in length makes 44 vibrations, how much will it vary from the truth in 24 hours?

Answer, by W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey, to A. Dyer's Anagram, inserted August 4.

TRANSPOSE the useful MUG you'll see,
'Tis GUM, the produce of a tree.

☞ We have received similar answers from W. D. of Bristol; S. T. Wreford, H. Stoneman, J. S and J. T. Symons of Exeter; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; J. A. Dyer, of Taunton; J. Ryan, and B. Belcher of East Stonehouse; J. Whitnell, of Ashcott; J. Woodman, jun. of North Curry; J. Lewis, of Poole; Sophia, of Modbury; T. Scadding, of Wellington; and J. Badcock, of Mousehole.

Answer, by H. Stoneman, of Exeter, to J. A. Dyer's Anagram, inserted August 4.

SOME horses START, which, if transpos'd,
STARTS you will quickly find disclos'd.

*** Similar answers have been received from J. Salter, of Broadhembury; W. D. Champion, of Bridgewater; Rusticus, of Awliscombe; J. Woodman, junior, of NorthCurry; W. Cross, and W. D. of Bristol; T. Scadding, and T. Clarke, of Wellington; J. Ryan, and B. Belcher, of Stonehouse; a private in the north Cornwall volunteers; J. Howell, of Bridport; W. Varcoe, of Mevagissey; Sophia, of Modbury; J. S. W. Commins, J. T. Symons, and S. T. Wreford, of Exeter; M. Duncan, jun. of Plymouth; and T. Pitman, of Child Okeford.

A CHARADE, *by Vigil, of Shaston.*

AN interjection first write down,
My first to bring to light;
Bacchus you may shortly crown,
With my next, a spirit bright:

These join, and soon there will be seen,
What doth alarm—'tis a machine.

A REBUS, *by J. T. Symons, of Exeter.*

A Correcting instrument transpose,
My first you'll then define;
Of human frame a part disclose,
My second's brought to mind;
Now last, two-thirds of a mistake;
Dear gents. you'll soon detail;
And join the parts, I'm sure they'll make
A town in England fam'd for ale.

A REBUS, *by* *****, *of Awliscombe.*

THE god of shepherds you must find;
A town in Sussex bring to mind;
An upright king, as poets tell,
By fate ordain'd a judge in Hell;
A foreign river next explore;
An English warrior, now no more;

My name these few initials shew,
Your humble servant—Sirs, adieu!

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

A FABLE *of* ESOP's

ATTEMPTED IN VERSE.

A Poor old man, weigh'd down by care,
Crawl'd forth to breathe the morning air;
And conscious, as the sun shone bright,
That chill would be the dews of night,
He search'd for sticks the forest side,
To cheer his hearth at even-tide.
The faggot form'd, with much ado
He o'er his feeble shoulder threw.
But soon, his trivial strength exhausted,
Down on a verdant bank he toss'd it;
And in a piteous tone express'd
The anguish of his aged breast.
He call'd on Death, and bade him come
To take him to his last long-home,
Where, after all misfortunes past,
The weary find repose at last.
His voice the grisly king obey'd,
And came, in dreadful pomp array'd:
The greybeard saw, and trembling cried,
(Shewing the faggot by his side)
"Just now, your worship, homeward-bound,
As scrambling o'er this rugged ground,
Down fell my burthen, and in vain
I've toil'd to lift it up again;
And seeing your worship at a distance,
I thought I'd beg your kind assistance."

Impatient thus of pain and grief,
Man seeks a desperate relief,
And calls on Death,—but should he *come*,
The wretch would fain be not at home;
Or pale, and doubtful what to say,
Begs he would call another day.
Whatever ills assail the heart,
True virtue acts a nobler part;
Tho' far her bark appears from shore,
Unmov'd she hears the tempest roar;
And prays not to be wafted hence,
But yields the helm to providence.
Sweet hope at length from Heav'n descends,
And chearfully her anchor lends:
Secur'd by which, the vessel rides
Safe, 'mid conflicting winds and tides.

Thus virtue acts; and blest are they
That follow where she leads the way.

Village-hill. EDWIN.

For

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

MARRIAGE.

HAIL! thou ethereal giver of delight,
When smiling virtue lights thy sacred fires!
'Tis then the loves their little hands unite,
And vile incontinence with shame retires!

How sweet the union, and how soft the tie,
When souls by sympathy together blend!
'Tis then we taste a kind of heav'nly joy,
Unknown, where honour ceases to befriend.

Ha! mark that monster who with all his might,
Thus ridicules the matrimonial rite,
As superstitious, inconsistent, vain:
'Tis a philosopher of modern race,
Consummately refin'd, licentious, base!
But victim of indignant love's disdain.

Trent. B. A.

TIME.

TIME, empty form, by fancy wrought,
Thin, subtle, flying, airy thought,
What shall we think of thee?
No sooner come, but fled and gone,
One flying instant quickly blown,
What can thy essence be?

Once thou art past, we call in vain,
No tears can bring thee back again,
Nor stay thy wing'd career:
Still flitting, changing, cutting short
Our joy, in spite of all effort,
While we are pilgrims here!

What past-time is, let sophists tell,
But let us use the present well;
And, in another sphere,
Without dispute we'll gladly find,
That present, future, past, are join'd
To make us happy there,

On a PILE *of* RUINS.

I Ask'd of Time, "To whom is rear'd this mass?
Whose ruins now thou crumblest with the soil?"
He answer'd not, but fiercer shook his glass,
And flew with swifter wing to wider spoil.

I ask'd of Fame, "Oh! thou, whose breath supplies
Life to high works of wonder, whose remains?"
Abash'd to earth she bent her mournful eyes,
Like one who, sighing, silently complains.

Lost in amaze, I turn'd my steps aside,
When o'er each heap I saw Oblivion stride,
With haughty mien, and air of deep design:
"Thou, then, (I said) must know; ah! deign declare."
Stern he replied, hoarse thunder shook the air,
"Whose once it was I seek not—now 'tis mine."